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*Testimony of Kyle Haven, Personal Care Assistant*  
*Bill 6668*  
*Human Services Committee, March 17, 2006*

My name is Kyle Haven and I've been a personal care assistant for years. I'm on the PCA registry, but haven't received any calls in a few years. I really enjoyed working with my last consumer—what I like about this work is that it's so personal. I'm helping someone that I care about; I consider them my friend as well as my consumer. My duties varied depending on her needs and her current condition.

My consumer was attending college. She could manage most things by herself, but needed help carrying her books and supplies. I would drive her places, assist her with anything she needed, and in general help her get around smoothly. Later her condition deteriorated and the assistance she needed changed. She was hospitalized off and on and required more PCAs to manage her care. Unfortunately I had to move on at that time.

I think this council is very important- I was a PCA for years and while it was very rewarding, there were several underlying issues that neither I nor my consumer had control over. I was making \$11 an hour and there were no benefits. I was on Medicaid but could only work 12 hours a week or I'd be deemed ineligible. It put me in this odd catch 22- do the work that I love without benefits or the ability to do it full time or find something else to do that I didn't feel as passionately about.

I would take more work as a PCA, I would be willing to do backup work for a consumer or to work more regular hours if I could do full time hours or have some possibility of getting benefits.

Why pass this council? I think it comes down to improving the quality of care available to consumers. They need the ability to come together to speak about the issues they face in living independently and PCAs need the ability to join our voices and have a say in the overriding conditions that affect our ability to improve the lives of our consumers. PCAs and consumers having a voice translates to a higher quality of care.

I urge you all to pass the quality home care council—together we can make a big difference!